

## Servant hood

In the world everyone is looking for position and power. With that comes the desire to be served. We may say that we don't desire to have position or power. Then we need to ask ourselves simple questions such as:

- 1) Are we willing to go out of our way to help someone else?
- 2) Are we willing to be discomforted so that someone else may be comforted?
- 3) Do we always want to be seen as right or are we willing to be wronged even if we are right?
- 4) Are we willing to do menial jobs or do we consider some jobs below us?
- 5) Do we get upset when we do things for people, the church or community and our work isn't acknowledged?

It may be that we are looking for more position that we think we are. But a servant hearted person doesn't look for position but serves for the love of those he/she is serving.

John 13: 1 – 17

- 1) A servant knows what is expected of him. (vs. 1 – 3)
  - Jesus knew that he had come from God and was returning to God.
  - <sup>PHP 2:6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>PHP 2:7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
  - As servant hearted person knows that he has been born of God and lives by kingdom values:
    - Luke 22: 25 – 27: “Jesus said t them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.
  - Is is being confident who we are and where we come from that enables us to be servants.
  - Insecure people cannot serve as they always need to try and prove their worth.
  - Our security is found in our relationship with God in Jesus.
  - Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.(v.3)
    - The more we know that we have authority in Christ the more we would be free to serve.
- 2) A servant serves (vs. 4 – 11)
  - Jesus started doing a servant's job by wrapping a towel around his waist taking a basin of water and washing his disciple's feet.
  - It was a common practice for servants of a host to wash their guests' feet. However, in this case, there wasn't a servant and Jesus did the work of a servant.
  - A servant doesn't call the odds but merely does what is expected of him.
  - <sup>LK 17:7</sup> "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? <sup>8</sup> Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup> Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' "
  - A servant doesn't look for honour for himself but merely to do what is required of him.
  - Abraham's servant just did what he was told when he went to look for a wife for Isaac. He didn't want to know what was in it for him.
  - Sometimes it also takes humility to be served

- Some people like to do things and find it hard for others to serve them – like Peter.
- We need to be humble enough to receive from the Lord if He has sent someone to serve us in times of need.
- Pride will always get in the way of receiving all that God has for us.
- Marks of a true servant:
  - Unselfish
  - Determined to give rather than receive
  - Sensitive towards the needs of others
  - Willing to carry the burdens of others
  - Indifferent towards public recognition
  - Gives God all the glory
  - Humble – He humbly gives himself in service to the needs of others

3) An example to follow (vs. 12 – 17)

- Jesus, being the Master and Lord, set the example for us to follow in servanthood.
- Servanthood leads to God's blessing
  - “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (v.17)
- Ways Jesus served as an example:
  - He humbled himself to become a servant to man.
  - He provided wine at a wedding
  - He broke the bread
  - He prepared breakfast
  - He healed the sick
  - He comforted a mother
  - He blessed little children
  - He washed his disciples' feet.
- What are some practical ways that you can be a servant to those around you?